IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PIOT et al.

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For:

A METHOD, AN INSTALLATION, AND A COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR ESTIMATING THE INITIAL SIZE OF A POPULATION OF NUCLEIC ACIDS, IN PARTICULAR BY

PCR

April 4, 2006

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend as follows: